

Wildcat Girls Play Perfect Hosts

Just when Mulvane girls basketball coach Bill Brown feels like he's got his club finally figured out, something happens to make him realize he doesn't.

Several good outings in a row gave Brown room for optimism heading into the Mulvane Girls Invitation but two straight setbacks were enough to mystify Brown, especially the 40-33 loss on Monday night, Jan. 28, to Wellington. In the second round, Mulvane had played well but lost to Clearwater, 52-45, in the first round.

"The whole thing is that the girls had given up on what they had on Tuesday against Clearwater. They didn't have anything left for Wellington," said Brown. "We had just catching and passing the ball. We really did."

The loss eliminated the Wildcats. Clearwater eventually won the tourney title, edging Wichita West, 50-47, in the championship game Saturday night, Jan. 30. Derby pounded Belle Plaine, 52-30, to take third place and Andover registered a 49-40 win over Wellington to take the consolation first title.

Against Wellington, Mulvane kept slipping farther and farther behind in the first half before re-grouping for a second-half run which fell short. Wellington jumped to a 11-4 lead after one period and the Crusaders were ahead, 29-11, at halftime. Mulvane

MULVANE GIRLS INVITATIONAL Championship

Clearwater 50, Wichita West 47

Third Place

Derby 52, Belle Plaine 30

Consolation First Place

Andover 49, Wellington 40

Consolation Semifinal

Wellington 11 18 4 7-40

Mulvane 4 7 12 10-33

Wellington--Sharon Scheuffler 9, Karen Frost 10, Jonie Patrick 12, Jeanie Yabarra 6, Judy Bradley 2, Rhonda Woodbridge 1. FG 16-48, FT 8-22, F 17.

Mulvane--Debbie McIntyre 2, Diane Mohny 2, Debbie Plain 2, Mary Cole 6, April Bales 2, Celia Rogers 3, Jay Kilpatrick 2, Tawnya Infinger 2, Nancy Gehring 12. FG 14-60, FT 5-9, F 21.

Gehring Named All-Tournament

Only junior Nancy Gehring was named to represent Mulvane High School on the All-tournament team following the finals of the Mulvane Girls Basketball Invitational which concluded Saturday, Jan. 30.

Gehring scored in double figures in both games the Wildcats played in the tournament and also led the club in rebounding in both games. She scored 25 points in two games.

Others named by tournament officials to the all-tourney first team were Karen

Frost of Wellington, Tonya Wondra of Andover, Rhonda Babb and Lori Jerrick, both of Belle Plaine, Cathy Lunkenheimer and Lynn Keffeler of Derby, Dana Geier and Noel Wyatt of Wichita West and Veronica Peissig and Carolyn Stump of Clearwater, the team which won the tournament championship.

Babb was the leading scorer in the tourney, hitting 74 points, and Stump finished second with 60 points.

rallied by out-scoring the Crusaders, 22-11 in the second half.

"We did come back a little in the second half," said Brown. "We pulled to within five (36-31 with three minutes left) and had a breakaway layup but missed it." That miss seemed to douse the last fires of a comeback win.

"Everything was hurry, hurry, hurry," said Brown. "I don't think the girls were mentally prepared for the game like we were for Clearwater, or for that matter the last three games. I think we felt we could take Wellington but Wellington had a good tournament.

"I can't get discouraged with these girls, though, because we're doing so much better than last year," added the Cat mentor. "We do need a win, though."

The loss dropped the Wildcats to 1-10 on the season, the lone Cat triumph coming against these same Crusaders.

Junior Nancy Gehring and sophomores Debbie McIntyre and Diane Mohny fuelled the second half surge for the

Wildcats. In fact, Gehring, who scored a team-high 12 points, scored six of them in the final quarter. Mohny hit a couple of free throws which kept Mulvane close.

The team's No. 1 scorer, Mary Cole, was held to only six points and senior Celia Rogers scored three points.

"Mary only took 10 shots," pointed out Brown. "To be effective, we have to have her shooting 15-to-20 times. We want her to take those shots and she didn't. They doubled up on her and kept her from getting the pass. When that happens, that's okay because that means someone else is open but we didn't have anyone else putting the ball in the hole."

"We beat these people before and Mary only scored eight points; so it wasn't so much a matter of stopping Mary as everybody else not able to put it down. We had a lot of opportunities in the fourth quarter but we couldn't put a bunch of two-footers down." Overall, the Cats made only 23% from the field, 14 of 60.